

Sanders
Schatz
Schumer
Shaheen
Sinema

Smith
Stabenow
Tester
Van Hollen
Warner

Warnock
Warren
Whitehouse
Wyden

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53,
nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 149 Ex.]

YEAS—53

NAYS—45

Barrasso
Blackburn
Blunt
Boozman
Braun
Burr
Capito
Cassidy
Cornyn
Cotton
Cramer
Crapo
Cruz
Daines
Ernst

Fischer
Graham
Hagerty
Hawley
Hoeven
Hyde-Smith
Inhofe
Johnson
Kennedy
Lankford
Lee
Marshall
McConnell
Moran
Murkowski

Paul
Portman
Risch
Romney
Rubio
Sasse
Scott (FL)
Scott (SC)
Shelby
Sullivan
Thune
Toomey
Tuberville
Wicker
Young

Baldwin
Bennet
Blumenthal
Booker
Brown
Cantwell
Cardin
Carper
Casey
Collins
Coons
Cortez Masto
Duckworth
Durbin
Feinstein
Gillibrand
Graham
Hassan

Heinrich
Hickenlooper
Hirono
Kaine
Kelly
King
Klobuchar
Leahy
Lujan
Manchin
Markey
Menendez
Merkley
Murphy
Murray
Ossoff
Padilla
Peters

Portman
Reed
Rosen
Sanders
Schatz
Schumer
Shaheen
Sinema
Smith
Stabenow
Tester
Van Hollen
Warner
Warnock
Warren
Whitehouse
Wyden

NOT VOTING—2

Rounds

Tillis

The nomination was confirmed.
The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 53, Brenda Mallory, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Council on Environmental Quality.

Charles E. Schumer, Ron Wyden, Maria Cantwell, Richard J. Durbin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Jeanne Shaheen, Tim Kaine, Angus S. King, Jr., Tammy Duckworth, John Hickenlooper, Gary C. Peters, Brian Schatz, Patty Murray, Tina Smith, Mazie Hirono, Sheldon Whitehouse, Alex Padilla.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Brenda Mallory, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Council on Environmental Quality, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any Senators in the Chamber wishing to vote or to change their vote?

Barrasso
Blackburn
Blunt
Boozman
Braun
Burr
Capito
Cassidy
Cornyn
Cotton
Cramer
Crapo
Cruz
Daines
Ernst

NAYS—45

Fischer
Grassley
Hagerty
Hawley
Hoeven
Hyde-Smith
Inhofe
Johnson
Kennedy
Lankford
Lee
Lummis
Marshall
McConnell
Moran

Murkowski
Paul
Risch
Romney
Rubio
Sasse
Scott (FL)
Scott (SC)
Shelby
Sullivan
Thune
Toomey
Tuberville
Wicker
Young

NOT VOTING—2

Rounds

Tillis

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 53, the nays are 45.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Brenda Mallory, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Council on Environmental Quality.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

NOMINATION OF BRENDA MALLORY

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, the Senate has now invoked cloture on the nomination of Brenda Mallory, President Biden's nominee to serve as the Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality. First, let me just say thank you. I want to express my thanks to—and I am sure, on behalf of Brenda Mallory—53 Senators who voted in favor of cloture so that we can move forward and now debate her nomination. We thank each Senator who cast that supporting vote. But I rise in support of Ms. Mallory's nomination to this important position. This is a position a lot of folks have never heard of, but it is a hugely important one. And I urge our colleagues to now join me in supporting, in confirmation, a highly, highly qualified nominee as well.

The Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality—or CEQ, as we call it—may not be the first position many Americans think about when they consider consequential Presidential appointments. But it is a crucial body—critical body—with considerable sway over our Nation's health and environment.

One of my mentors was a Republican named Russ Peterson, a great leader of the DuPont company for many years, Governor of Delaware, and later served as Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality during the administrations of both Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford.

Governor Peterson used to refer to his role as Chair at the Council on Environmental Quality as similar to that of an orchestra leader, an orchestra conductor. He said: You don't play the instruments as the Chair of the CEQ, but you try hard to ensure that everyone in the orchestra is playing in harmony. The CEQ Chair coordinates action across the entire government in order to ensure that Federal Agencies are working in harmony and that every Federal decision advances the objectives of economic growth, of better public health, and of stronger environmental quality.

While CEQ Chairs do work much like an orchestra leader, a conductor, to achieve harmony across Federal Agencies, they must also pursue balance. That balance includes at least three components: one, growing our economy; two, ensuring a just and healthy society; and, three, protecting our environment for current and future generations. Those are the clear objectives of CEQ as laid out in the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, known as NEPA, the landmark law that created CEQ, often referred to as “the Magna Carta of environmental laws.”

According to its six pages of statute, NEPA's purpose includes—and I am going to quote—“efforts which will prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and biosphere and stimulate the health and welfare of man.” I would add “and woman.” NEPA enshrines democracy by giving the American people a voice to help decide the fate of Federal decisions. For 50 years, NEPA has sought to ensure environmental protection, public health, and the notion that the American people should have a say in the Federal decision-making process that affects their lives.

Like our Constitution, NEPA is one of our Nation's most enduring and replicated laws. The same principles of democracy and citizen participation enshrined in our Constitution are also enshrined in NEPA.

Sadly, the Trump administration's CEQ largely walked away from the tenets of this 50-year-old law, issuing drastic rollbacks that undermine much of its very mission. Instead of advancing the CEQ's three objectives—one, a more productive economy; two, a healthier society; and three, a cleaner environment—the previous administration sadly repeatedly compromised public health and environmental quality for the sake of less redtape.

So one of the many tasks ahead for the next CEQ Chair will be to get us back on track—to harmonize our efforts to address the climate crisis, safeguard public health, and ensure that